

Lesson 23. Carjacking Prevention

Lesson Purpose

To focus on strategies for avoiding carjacking.

Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Recognize situations that place people at risk of carjacking.
- Identify and practice key strategies for reducing the likelihood of being carjacked.

Materials

Presentation: Carjacking Prevention

Handout(s): *"How Can I Reduce My Risk of Being Carjacked?"* and *"Carjacking Prevention"* (optional)

Supplement: Display newspaper and magazine articles about carjacking and tips for prevention.

Related Resources

National Crime Prevention Council, www.ncpc.org

Lesson Plan

Time	Main Points	Slide
Introduction		
5 min.	Carjacking is the newest form of car theft -- Imagine having someone approach you while you're sitting in your car at a traffic signal, point a gun at your face and take your car. Or imagine having your vehicle stolen as you park (even in your own driveway), or while getting gas. Carjacking has happened in good neighborhoods and in broad daylight.	1 – 2
	Briefly describe an incident of carjacking.	
	Today we'll talk about situations that place people at risk of carjacking and identify key strategies for reducing the likelihood of being carjacked.	2
	Distribute handout: <i>"How Can I Reduce My Risk of Being Carjacked?"</i>	

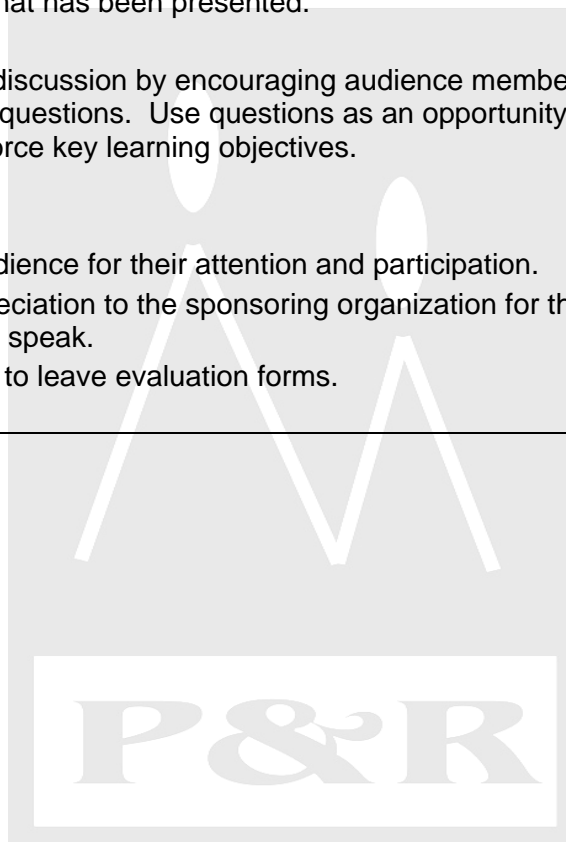
Time	Main Points	Slide
Presentation		
3 min.	Why is carjacking on the increase? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It's a crime of opportunity—a thief searching for the most vulnerable prey. Sometimes it's part of another crime. ▪ Car thieves find it easier to steal a car while the owner is there—with the keys in the ignition—than to break into a car, especially if the car has an alarm. ▪ Cars equipped with sophisticated, built-in alarm systems and theft-deterrent devices are becoming harder to steal. ▪ Cars, especially luxury models, provide quick cash for drug users and other criminals. ▪ Carjacking may be a rite of passage, a gang initiation act, or just a thrill for some. 	3
3 min.	Windows of opportunity that carjackers look for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intersections controlled by traffic lights or stop signs. ▪ Parking garages, shopping malls and grocery stores. ▪ Self-service gas stations and car washes. ▪ ATMs (automated teller machines). ▪ Residential driveways and streets, as people get into and out of their cars. ▪ Highway exit and entry ramps, or other places where drivers slow down or stop. 	4
3 min.	Before you enter your car <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be alert to any activity near your car. Pay attention to your surroundings. ▪ When approaching your car, have your key in your hand, and check the back seat before getting in. ▪ If someone is loitering near your unoccupied car as you approach it, keep walking until the person leaves. ▪ Be wary of people asking for directions or handing out flyers. Trust your instincts—if something makes you feel uneasy, get into the car quickly, lock the doors and drive away. 	5
5 min.	Once you're in your car <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keep your doors and windows locked, no matter how short the distance or how "safe" the neighborhood. ▪ Avoid driving alone. Have someone with you whenever possible, especially at night. ▪ When you're coming to a stop, leave enough space to maneuver around other cars. If you sense trouble, doing this will allow you the room needed to get away. ▪ If a suspicious-looking person approaches your car, drive away carefully. 	6

Time	Main Points	Slide
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drive in the inside (center) lane to make it more difficult for would-be carjackers to approach your car. ▪ Don't stop to assist a stranger whose car has broken down. Instead, get help by driving to the nearest phone and calling the police. ▪ If you're driving home and notice someone you don't recognize, drive around the block and come back after the person has left. 	7

Time	Main Points	Slide
4 min.	Getting out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Park in well-lighted areas, near sidewalks or walkways. Avoid parking near dumpsters, woods, large vans or trucks, or anything else that limits your visibility. ▪ Never leave valuables in plain view, even if the car is locked. Put them in the trunk or out-of-sight. ▪ Try to park in a garage with an attendant. Leave only the ignition key, with no personal identification. ▪ Even if you're rushed, look around before you get out and stay alert to your surroundings. 	8
3 min.	If it happens to you <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If a carjacker threatens you with a gun or other weapon, give up your car. Don't argue. Your life is worth far more than a car. ▪ Get away from the area as quickly as possible. ▪ Notice and remember what the carjacker looked like—sex, race, age, hair and eye color, special features, clothes and anything specific or unusual, like an accent. ▪ Report the crime immediately to the police. 	9
3 min.	Other ways to take action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with Neighborhood Watch groups, law enforcement, automobile clubs and other concerned groups to get the word out about carjacking prevention. ▪ Contact school officials to make sure that driver education classes include talks with teens about preventing carjacking. ▪ Ask the local media to air carjacking prevention tips as public service announcements, perhaps during commuting hours. ▪ Ask your insurance agent, or company, to provide carjacking and other auto theft prevention information in notices and bills. 	10

Time	Main Points	Slide
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enlist parking lot owners, shopping mall security, and transit authorities to print and distribute educational materials with carjacking prevention tips. ▪ Get permission to place carjacking prevention flyers, or brochures, in the waiting rooms of automobile service departments, repair shops and gas stations. ▪ Ask the Department of Motor Vehicle to display carjacking and auto-theft prevention advice – posters, handouts, etc. – in its offices, and to distribute prevention tips in all mailings. 	11
2 min.	Summarizing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are reasons why carjacking is increasing. ▪ Thieves look for windows of opportunity. ▪ When you are approaching your car and are in your car, there are things you can do to shut that window of opportunity. ▪ If it does happen, don't argue – Get away. 	12
Practice/feedback		
10 min.	Have participants review the list of strategies for prevention of carjacking in their handout. Ask them to place a checkmark (✓) beside the things they now do and to place an asterisk (*) beside the things that they need to begin to do. Give participants 5 to 7 minutes to complete this review. The instructor should circulate among the participants during this time. Conclude the activity by asking two or three volunteer participants to share what they learned from the review. The instructor should reinforce prevention strategies and key learning points.	13

Time	Main Points	Slide
Evaluation		
10 min.	<p>Set-up</p> <p>We have a few minutes for questions and additional discussion. While we're doing that, we have a brief evaluation form we'd like for you to complete and leave with us. Your name is not required, but your feedback is very important. It will help us improve our presentation and program.</p> <p>Distribute evaluation forms and ask for questions or additional comments on what has been presented.</p> <p>Promote group discussion by encouraging audience members to help respond to questions. Use questions as an opportunity to clarify and reinforce key learning objectives.</p> <p>Wrap-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thank the audience for their attention and participation. ▪ Express appreciation to the sponsoring organization for the opportunity to speak. ▪ Remind them to leave evaluation forms. 	14



23. Carjacking Prevention

Please tell us what you think about this lesson by circling the numbers that most closely reflect your opinions.

After this lesson . . .	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) I now can better recognize situations that place people at risk of carjacking.	1	2	3	4
b) I can identify strategies for reducing the likelihood of being carjacked when getting into my vehicle.	1	2	3	4
c) I can identify strategies for reducing the likelihood of being carjacked when getting out of my vehicle.	1	2	3	4
d) I now know what to do if someone attempts a carjacking.	1	2	3	4
About this lesson . . .				
e) The information presented was valuable.	1	2	3	4
f) The lesson was presented in a clear and understandable manner.	1	2	3	4
g) Lesson activities and discussion were helpful.	1	2	3	4
h) I would recommend this lesson to others.	1	2	3	4

What was the most valuable thing you learned?

Please give one example of how you plan to use the information presented in this lesson.

How could this lesson be improved?

